

**Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016**

**7:00 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Large Conference Room)**

**PRESENT:** Paige Bjornson, Tony Kobbervig, George Gaukler, Mary Simonson, Mike Metcalf, Bobby Koepplin, Josh Kasowski, JoAnn Hooper, Dean Kinney, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

**ABSENT:** Wade Bruns, Bill Carlblom, Luke Trapp and Leighton Smith

**EX-OFFICIO:** Matt Pedersen, City Commission; Chad Petersen, KLJ; and Tisa Mason, VCSU  
President Paige Bjornson called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 7:00 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to go into Executive Session. Josh Kasowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Note:** George Gaukler stepped out of the meeting for discussion of land sale item.

**Note:** George Gaukler returned to Executive Session after discussion of land sale item was concluded.

**CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 7:25 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to close the Executive Session. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Land Sale:** The offer received is \$500,000 from Valley Realty to purchase 6.31 acres (two lots-3.44 and 2.87 acres) on Winter Show Road; the contract for deed is for both lots. Clarification of Indian burial mound study is pending. Request a copy of soil borings. Existing dirt pile will be the responsibility of the purchaser. One offer was received. Josh Kasowski moved to approve the offer as proposed pending legal counsel review. Mary Simonson seconded. Ayes: Paige Bjornson, Tony Kobbervig, Mary Simonson, Mike Metcalf, Bobby Koepplin, Josh Kasowski, Dean Kinney and JoAnn Hooper. George Gaukler abstained. Motion carried. A signed contract is needed by tomorrow so the ND HIF application can be submitted by the deadline.

**Eagle Creek Lease:** Bobby Koepplin moved to continue forward with Option 1 as a starting point of negotiations. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Note:** Bobby Koepplin left at 7:50 a.m.; absent and not voting on subsequent motions.

**Pizza Corner:** There will be a loss of 150 jobs with Pizza Corner factory closing in May. Jennifer Feist did substantial press to ensure our story was told as part of the overall story. Also spoke with Ron Rauschenberger, Governor's office, and Paul Lucy, ND Department of Commerce, regarding the announcement and assistance to replace the jobs lost. Paul Lucy indicated the State has CDBG funds that could help. New owners will be contacted and packet of information sent. Did substantial work to help Dave Zubrod; paperwork to rezone and receive a building permit was never filed. Dave may have not felt comfortable making the substantial investment needed to take the company to the next level. He had a good opportunity to sell. There will be difficulties with the jobs lost and loss for peripheral businesses. Dave Schelkoph commented that he appreciated the work of the Development Corporation and Jennifer Feist to help work with Mr. Zubrod to resolve issues. He received a visit from an individual regarding potential flax facility; he expects to receive information soon and will forward it to Jennifer Feist for response. The project may involve a former sales person of Dietrichs.

There being no further business, President Paige Bjornson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist, Director of Development